



EUROPE / MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 19 May 2016



IOM welcomes an asylum seeker arriving in Ljubljana as part of the EU relocation programme © IOM Slovenia 2016

Highlights

■ In Greece, during the week of 9 May, IOM led an escort mission for 20 unaccompanied children (seven from Pakistan, six from Afghanistan, five from Syria, one from Palestine, and one from Egypt) who were escorted from the First Reception Centre in Lesvos to a new accommodation facility in Mytilene.

■ Between 9-13 May, IOM Turkey in coordination with IOM Italy, organized a visit to Italy for 10 members of the Turkish Coast Guards and the Directorate General of Migration Management. The aim of the visit was for the delegation to learn best practices from authorities in Italy who are operating the first reception facilities.

■ On 12 May, IOM assisted the first group of asylum-seekers arriving in Slovenia from Greece as part of the EU relocation programme. In total, 28 people (five families with 14 children and four single men) from Iraq and Syria arrived in Ljubljana.

■ In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, at the reception centre in Tabanovce, where approximately 300 people remain stranded, IOM is working to install clean water facilities to help improve hygiene conditions. Additionally, at the reception centre for asylum seekers in Vizbegovo, IOM completed the installation of AC units which will help to improve the living conditions of those accommodated there in the forthcoming summer months.

■ IOM Libya facilitated the issuance of travel documents, provided fit-to-travel health checks, and conducted interviews for 180 Senegalese migrants who expressed interest in being repatriated to their home country. All 180 migrants are scheduled to travel on a charter flight to Senegal on 19 May.

■ IOM Niger provided direct assistance to 1,935 migrants with shelter, food, medical and psychosocial support. Additionally, IOM registered 1,804 new arrivals (including 1,675 returnees from Algeria) at the IOM Niger transit centres.

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SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 18 May 2016, 196,325 migrants and refugees have arrived to Europe by land and sea routes since the start of 2016, the majority of whom have entered through Greece (155,975) and Italy (33,907).

Based on data collected by IOM at the Greek islands, it is estimated that among the migrants and refugees arriving by sea to Greece, approximately 44 per cent are male, 22 per cent are female, and 34 per cent are children, and their main country of departure is Turkey.

On 13 May, a total of 1,267 migrants were rescued by the Italian coast guards and brought to land in Augusta, Catania, Palermo and Crotone. All migrants departed from Egypt. The majority of migrants arriving in Italy through the Central Mediterranean route come from Nigeria, Gambia, Somalia, the Ivory Coast, and Eritrea.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the number of migrants and refugees who remain at the reception centre in Gevgelija is currently 107 (25 women, 33 men, and 49 children). In Tabanovce centre, approximately 300 people remain stranded.

After several months, the Slovenian government have found accommodation for 18 unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan. The decision came after a [European Commission report](#) highlighted that approximately 80 per cent of unaccompanied minors in Slovenia are reported missing.

As of 17 May, the Turkish Coast Guards (TCG) have rescued 25,015 migrants and refugees, while 173 lives were lost at sea, since the start of this year.

IOM RESPONSE

Turkey

Between 9-13 May, IOM Turkey in coordination with IOM Italy, organized a visit to Italy for 10 members of the Turkish Coast Guards (TCG) and the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM). The aim of the visit was for the delegation of TCG and DGMM members to learn best practices from authorities in Italy who are operating the first reception facilities. The delegation visited a hotspot in Lampedusa and met with relevant authorities there as well as in Rome. Following their visit to Italy, the Turkish

delegation will discuss the development of reception facilities where pre-screening and referral and assistance mechanisms for vulnerable migrants are maintained through inter-institutional cooperation and coordination, and with the involvement of multiple stakeholders.

IOM continues to provide support to the TCG by distributing food, water and non-food items (NFIs) to rescued migrants and refugees. During the reporting period, IOM assisted the TCG in Dikili (a district of Izmir province where migrants and refugees cross to the island of Lesvos in Greece) by providing 141 rescued migrants and refugees with food, water and NFIs, including blankets, clothing and shoes. The majority of those rescued at sea in Dikili come from Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.



IOM assisted migrants and refugees rescued at sea in Çeşme
© IOM Turkey 2016

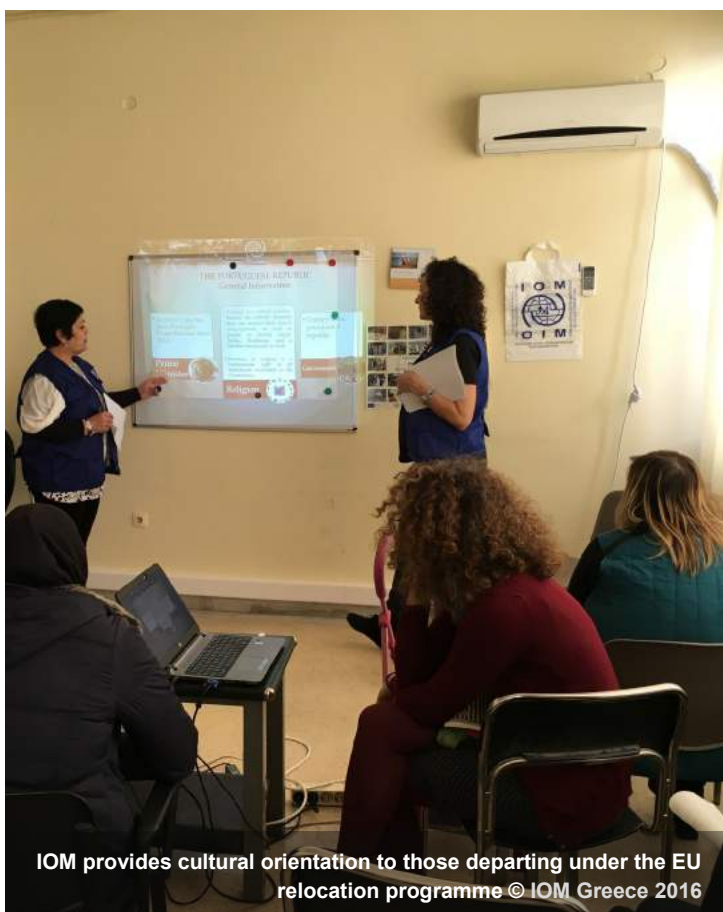
Furthermore, in Çeşme, IOM supported the TCG through the provision of food, water and NFIs to 239 migrants and refugees who were rescued at sea during the reporting period. In Küçükkuşu, IOM distributed food and NFIs to an additional 46 migrants and refugees who were rescued at sea.

IOM RESPONSE

Greece

IOM continues to provide support to the Government and assist with the overall operation of accommodation camps in Attica and Northern Greece. IOM has started purchasing non-food items and has appointed camp coordination and camp management focal points to assist authorities in the operation of these newly established camps.

To date, IOM has assisted 973 refugees as part of the EU relocation programme. All beneficiaries are provided with pre-departure medical checks as well as extensive cultural orientation sessions that provide practical information on their respective country of destination. IOM also helps the refugees to set realistic goals and develop skills that can help them to succeed in their new environment. When necessary, IOM also provides escort service to cases involving unaccompanied children, people with medical needs, and/or in countries of transit.



IOM provides cultural orientation to those departing under the EU relocation programme © IOM Greece 2016

IOM continues to provide assisted voluntary return (AVR) services for migrants who are seeking to safely return to their country of origin. IOM provides beneficiaries of this programme with services that include: information and counselling on return; pre-departure assistance; transit and reception assistance; and small reinstallation cash grants prior to departure. As of 18 May, IOM has registered 3,024 migrants since the start of the year who wish to return to their country of origin. Of this total, IOM has provided return assistance to 2,156 migrants, the majority of whom were from Morocco (964), Iran (321), Iraq (239), and Afghanistan (217).

During the week of 9 May, IOM led an escort mission for 20 unaccompanied children (seven from Pakistan, six from Afghanistan, five from Syria, one from Palestine, and one from Egypt) who were escorted from the First Reception Centre in Lesvos to a new accommodation facility in Mytilene. IOM continues to be present on the islands of Lesvos, Samos, Chios, Leros, and Crete and works closely with authorities (Frontex, the Hellenic Coast Guards, and the First Reception Service) to identify vulnerable migrants and refugees, including unaccompanied and/or separated children, the elderly, and those with medical needs. Vulnerable populations are referred to the relevant authorities in order to be provided with the necessary care and assistance. IOM teams are composed of trained cultural mediators who provide information to migrants and refugees in their native language.

Serbia

IOM teams continue to provide counselling on assisted voluntary return (AVR) options to migrants who are seeking to return to their country of origin. For those who decide to return to their country, IOM provides them with all necessary technical and logistical support, including: contact with relevant embassies, transport to the embassies, assistance with travel documents, travel arrangements, transit assistance, and assistance upon arrival to the country of origin.

Since mid-February 2016, IOM has provided AVR assistance to a total of 33 migrants (15 to Morocco, seven to Iran, five to Algeria, three to Iraq, two to Afghanistan, and one to Lebanon).

IOM RESPONSE

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

IOM has two mobile teams in the reception centres in Tabanovce and Gevgelija. Each team consists of three staff members (a translator, social worker and medical officer) who can help to address the needs of vulnerable populations among the remaining group of migrants and refugees. The mobile teams are actively monitoring and screening the remaining migrants and refugees to help ensure that those with vulnerabilities, especially victims of trafficking, are identified and referred to the appropriate services.

At the reception centre in Tabanovce, where approximately 300 people remain stranded, IOM is working to install clean water facilities to help improve hygiene conditions. Additionally, at the reception centre for asylum seekers in Vizbegovo, IOM has completed the installation of AC units which will help to improve the living conditions of those accommodated there in the forthcoming summer months.

Croatia



IOM organized language classes for migrants at the Reception Centre in Zagreb © IOM Croatia 2016

IOM continues to provide English and Croatian language courses to those who remain stranded at the Reception Centre for asylum seekers in Zagreb. Along with language courses, IOM also provides basic hygiene and cultural orientation classes to the migrants, and future programmes will include sport activities. IOM ensures that information is accurately disseminated and communicated to the migrants through the use of cultural mediators who also act as interpreters.

To help improve the living conditions of those staying at the Reception Centre, IOM conducted an assessment of current needs and plans to purchase and provide urgent non-food items (including weather-appropriate clothes and footwear, hygienic pads and wipes, and toys for children), additional furniture, showers and toilets.



IOM helped to improve living conditions at the Reception Centre through the purchase of equipment © IOM Croatia 2016

Slovenia

On 12 May, IOM assisted the first group of asylum-seekers arriving in Slovenia from Greece as part of the EU relocation programme. In total, 28 people (five families with 14 children and four single men) from Iraq and Syria arrived in Ljubljana and the group was welcomed by IOM and then taken to an asylum centre where their applications for international protection were submitted. In total, 567 asylum-seekers will be relocated to Slovenia in 2016 and 2017, while 20 will be permanently resettled within the country.

IOM RESPONSE

Libya

On 13 May, the Libyan Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration intercepted migrants in Sabrata who intended to take a boat to Europe. 29 of the migrants were female, one of whom was in her ninth month of pregnancy and was transferred to Qwea clinic for the remaining period of her pregnancy. The remaining migrants were transferred to Sourman detention centre.

On 15 May, local authorities conducted a rescue at sea operation in Tajourah in Tripoli where 115 migrants were rescued, including 50 women. IOM's partners from Multakana centre went to the location to provide the rescued migrants with medical assistance, dry clothes, and hygiene kits.

Based on the outcomes of a rapid assessment conducted by the host community, IOM provided 400 migrants with non-food items (including blankets, pillows and mattresses) and hygiene kits. The migrants were residing in Al Najma factory, Tareq Al-Sabaa and Tareq AlShwak districts in Tripoli.

IOM continues to provide healthcare services to migrants in detention centres and medical visits are scheduled to four centres (three in the West and one in the East). Approximately 60 medical screening sessions were conducted during the reporting period with critical cases referred to the hospital for further treatment.

During the reporting period, IOM facilitated the issuance of travel documents, provided fit-to-travel health checks, and conducted interviews for 180 Senegalese migrants who expressed interest in being repatriated to their home country. All 180 migrants are scheduled to travel on a charter flight to Senegal on 19 May. Furthermore, 63 additional migrants from Sierra Leone (3), Niger (35), and Mali (25) were supported with consular service, medical screenings and interviews. They are also scheduled to return to their respective home country by end of May through commercial flights. Out of the 190 Nigerians who have registered to be repatriated, 70 have been interviewed and will be provided with flights home by early June.

Based on the third round of [DTM](#) reporting in the country, IOM notes that the top five migrant nationalities are Nigerien, Egyptian, Ghanaian, Malian, and Chadian.

Niger

As a continuation of its information and awareness campaign, IOM reproduced several cinema caravans in the capital of Niamey. The cinema caravans involved the projection of sensitization videos (including those done by a local celebrity) and "Odysseus 2.0" which are short-documentary clips that presents an overview of the risks, as well as the dreams and hopes of migrants. The screenings were then followed by debates and discussion among viewers. Many migrants attended the sessions and enriched the follow-up discussions by offering their own input and experiences. From 9-16 May, the director of "Odysseus 2.0" participated in several question and answer (Q&A) sessions with participants organized by IOM. One Q&A session, conducted at the University of Niamey Abdou Moumouni, drew a high number of Nigerien participants that included families and students.

During the reporting period, IOM provided direct assistance to 1,935 migrants with shelter, food, medical and psychosocial support. Additionally, IOM registered 1,804 new arrivals (including 1,675 returnees from Algeria) at the IOM Niger transit centres.

IOM provided 100 migrants with return assistance to their country of origin, the majority of whom came from Mali (22), Guinea Conakry (21), Senegal (18), and Guinea Bissau (14).

The Niger flow monitoring points in Arlit and Séguédine continue to record migrants coming into and leaving Niger. Based on the latest [Niger Flow Monitoring Report](#) published on 16 May, the majority of migrants recorded by the two flow monitoring points are going from Niger to Libya (51,225 individuals or 64 per cent of the total). Migrants on this route tend to be young men from English-speaking West African countries who intend to go on to Europe. Furthermore, 21 per cent of the recorded migrants were travelling between Niger and Algeria and they more commonly worked in the gold mines in the north of Niger. The past three weeks have had outgoing migrant flows of over 10,000 individuals, mainly heading towards Libya. There has also been an increase in the incoming number of migrants, with over 3,000 migrants coming into Niger per week. IOM has also published the [Niger Flow Monitoring Quarterly Report](#) for the timeframe February-April 2016.

Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

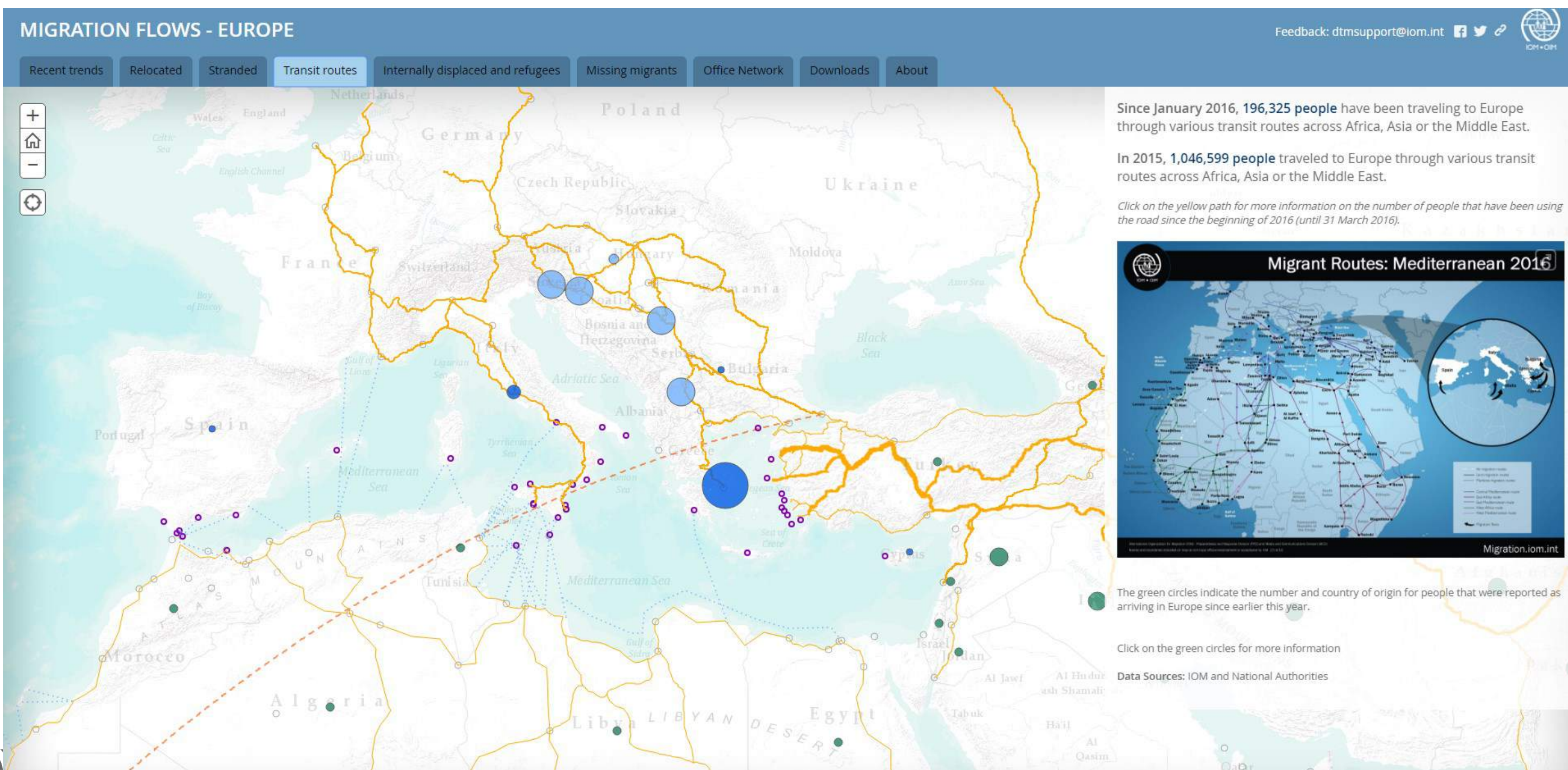
IOM's **online portal** provides information on trends and transit routes related to the Europe / Mediterranean migration crisis. The below depicts a map of the transit routes and the total number of people that travelled to Europe. An updated version of the portal can be found at <http://migration.iom.int>.

Recent trends in migrant flow

Between 4 May — 18 May 2016*

Country	Greece	Bulgaria	Italy	Cyprus	Serbia	Hungary
Registered Arrivals	508	242	5,201	0	104	1,204
Change in comparison to registered arrivals of previous period (20 April— 3 May)	Decrease of 67%	Decrease of 49%	Increase of 54%	Unchanged	Increase of 593%	Decrease of 36%

*All other countries in the route have registered zero arrivals in the period between 21 April and 18 May. However there are stranded migrants in those countries. The number of stranded migrants is on the next page.



Europe / Mediterranean Migration Response

STRANDED MIGRANTS As of 17 May 2016

Greece **54,496**

Estimate stranded migrants as of 17 May
Source: National authorities, IOM and UNHCR

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **402**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 17 May
Source: National authorities

Serbia **53**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 17 May
Source: National authorities

Croatia **89**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 17 May
Source: National authorities

Slovenia **359**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 17 May
Source: National authorities

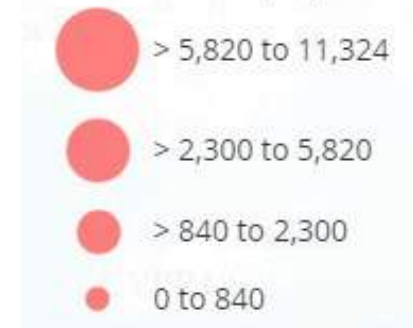
Hungary **2,222**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 17 May
Source: IOM and National authorities

Bulgaria **1,343**

Estimated stranded migrants as of 12 May
Source: Government

Stranded
No. of stranded people as of 17/05/2016



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

